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7 October 1965

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MERCHANT SHIP CONVOY (WESTBOUND)
EAST SIBERIAN SEA

1. THE NORTHERN SEA ROUTE (NSR), ESTABLISHED IN 1932, EXTENDS APPROXIMATELY 3,375 NM FROM MURMANSK TO PROVIDENIYA. THE NSR IS IMPORTANT TO THE USSR BECAUSE IT SERVES AS THE PRIMARY SUPPLY LINE FOR ECONOMIC AND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THE SOVIET ARCTIC. THE NSR IS ALSO USED FOR THE ANNUAL TRANSFER OF NAVAL UNITS FROM THE NORTHERN FLEET TO THE PACIFIC FLEET AND FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF NAVAL FORCES BETWEEN THE TWO AREAS.

SHIPPING PROCEDURE ON THE NSR IS CONTROLLED BY THE SHORT NAVIGATION SEASON. TO REDUCE TRAVEL TIME AND ICE DANGER, MOST SHIPS START FROM EITHER THE EASTERN OR THE WESTERN END AND MOVE TOWARDS THE CENTER, UNLOADING CARGO ALONG THE WAY. CARGO FOR THE REMAINING HALF OF THE ROUTE IS UNLOADED AT TIKSI TO BE PICKED UP BY SHIPS RETURNING TO THEIR HOME PORTS OF MURMANSK, ARKHANGELSK, OR VLADIVOSTOK.

3. THIS MISSION REVEALS THAT ON [REDACTED] AT 0028Z, A CONVOY OF 10 MERCHANT VESSELS IN A COLUMN APPROXIMATELY 8 MILES LONG IS PROCEED-

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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ING ON COURSE APPROXIMATELY [] THROUGH PAN ICE AND SMALL AREAS
OF CLEAR WATER IN THE EAST SIBERIAN SEA AT APPROXIMATELY 71-57N 152-50E.
THE CONVOY CONSISTS OF 1 TANKER/AO (OILER), 1 ICE BREAKER/MERCHANT VESSEL,
1 POSSIBLE ICEBREAKER, AND 7 MERCHANT VESSELS.

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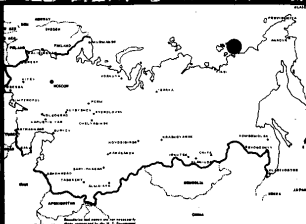
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MERCHANT SHIP CONVOY (WESTBOUND) EAST SIBERIAN SEA 71-57N 152-50E



POSS
ICE BREAKER

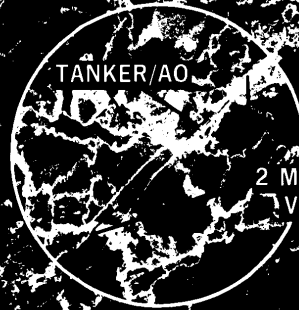


12 MERCHANT
VESSELS



ICE BREAKER/MERCHANT VESSEL

MERCHANT VESSEL



TANKER/AO

2 MERCHANT
VESSELS



2 MERCHANT VESSELS

123X ENLARGEMENT

ALL INSETS 46X

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